

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A conductive carbonaceous-fiber ~~sheet~~ fabric which has a thickness of from 0.05 to 1 mm, a weight per a unit area of from 60 to 250 g/m², a bending resistance (L) as determined by the 45° Cantilever method of 6 cm or higher, and an in-plane volume resistivity of 0.2 Ω cm or lower.

wherein the ~~sheet~~ fabric comprises a binder or a product of carbonization of the binder in an amount of from 10 to 40% by weight and comprises carbonaceous fibers bonded to one another with the binder or its carbonization product through point contact,

wherein the binder or its carbonization product is present discontinuously as particles on the surface of the fibers.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber ~~sheet~~ fabric as claimed in claim 1, which has an air permeability as determined in accordance with JIS L 1096, method A (frazil method) of from 50 to 150 cm³/cm²•sec, the air permeability being a measure of the gas-diffusing properties of the ~~sheet~~ fabric.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber ~~sheet~~ fabric as claimed in claim 1, which has a thickness of from 0.1 to 0.5 mm.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber ~~sheet~~ fabric as claimed in claim 1, which has a weight per a unit area of from 80 to 200 g/m².

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber ~~sheet~~ fabric as claimed in claim 1, which has a bending resistance (L) as determined by the 45° Cantilever method of 8 cm or higher.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber ~~sheet~~ fabric as claimed in claim 1, which comprises carbonaceous fiber monofilaments having a diameter of from 6 to 50 μm .

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber ~~sheet~~ fabric as claimed in claim 1, which has an in-plane volume resistivity of 0.07 Ωcm or lower.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber ~~sheet~~ fabric as claimed in claim 1, which comprises carbonaceous fibers fused to one another.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber ~~sheet~~ fabric as claimed in claim 1, which comprises carbonaceous fibers bonded to one another with a binder or a product of carbonization of the binder.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber ~~sheet~~ fabric as claimed in claim 1, which contains a binder or a product of carbonization of the binder in an amount of from 0.01 to 25% by weight and comprises carbonaceous fibers bonded to one another by the binder present on the surface of the fibers or a carbonization product thereof.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber ~~sheet~~ fabric as claimed in claim 10, which contains the binder or a carbonization product thereof in an amount of from 0.01 to 7% by weight.

Claim 12 (Canceled).

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber ~~sheet~~ fabric as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carbonaceous fibers are ones obtained by spraying or applying a dispersion of fine particles of a semicured thermosetting resin, optionally conducting drying, pressing or both drying and pressing, and then completely curing the resin.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber ~~sheet~~ fabric as claimed in claim 1, which is a woven fabric.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber ~~sheet~~ fabric as claimed in claim 1, which has a degree of fluffing of from the second to the fifth grade in terms of the index as determined through a fluff grade test.

Claims 16-29 (Canceled).

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): A solid polymer electrolyte fuel cell which employs the conductive carbonaceous-fiber ~~sheet~~ fabric as claimed in claim 1 as a gas diffusion layer material.

Claim 31 (Canceled).

Claim 32 (Original): A motor vehicle having the solid polymer electrolyte fuel cell as claimed in claim 30 mounted therein.

Claim 33 (Canceled).

Claim 34 (Original): A cogeneration power system having the solid polymer electrolyte fuel cell as claimed in claim 30 installed therein.

Claim 35 (Canceled).

Claim 36 (Currently Amended): A solid polymer electrolyte fuel cell which employs the conductive carbonaceous-fiber ~~sheet~~ fabric as claimed in claim 14 as a gas diffusion layer material.

Claim 37 (Currently Amended): A solid polymer electrolyte fuel cell which employs the conductive carbonaceous-fiber ~~sheet~~ fabric as claimed in claim 15 as a gas diffusion layer material.

Claim 38 (Currently Amended): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber ~~sheet~~ fabric as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carbonaceous fibers are oriented.

Claim 39 (Currently Amended): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber ~~sheet~~ fabric as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carbonaceous fibers are axially oriented to one another.

Claim 40 (Currently Amended): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber ~~sheet~~ fabric as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carbonaceous fibers are twisted yarns.

Claim 41 (Canceled).

Claim 42 (Currently Amended): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber ~~sheet~~ fabric as claimed in claim 1, wherein the point contact is present between two fibers.

Claim 43 (Currently Amended): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber ~~sheet~~ fabric as claimed in claim 1, wherein the point contact is between a particle of a thermosetting resin and at least two fibers.

Claim 44 (Currently Amended): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber ~~sheet~~ fabric as claimed in claim 1, wherein the binder is present in an amount of from 0.01 to 4% by weight based on the total weight of the conductive carbonaceous-fiber ~~sheet~~ fabric.

Claim 45 (Currently Amended): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber ~~sheet~~ fabric as claimed in claim 1, wherein the binder is present in an amount of from 0.01 to 7% by weight based on the total weight of the conductive carbonaceous-fiber ~~sheet~~ fabric.

Claim 46 (Currently Amended): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber ~~sheet~~ fabric as claimed in claim 1, wherein the point contact is 200 μm or smaller.

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Claim 47 (Currently Amended): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber ~~sheet~~ fabric as claimed in claim 1, wherein the point contact is 50 μm or smaller.

Claim 48 (New): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber fabric as claimed in claim 1, which is obtained by weaving the yarns of carbonaceous fibers.

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BASIS FOR THE AMENDMENT

New Claim 48 has been added as supported by the Examples.

No new matter is believed to have been added by entry of this amendment. Entry and favorable reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this amendment Claims 1-11, 13-15, 30, 32, 34, 36-40 and 42-48 will now be active in this application.

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INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Hai Vo for the helpful and courteous discussion with Applicants' Representative on May 2, 2005. During this discussion it was noted that the now claimed "conductive carbonaceous-fiber fabric" is different from the "carbon paper" of Miwa et al and the web of Tajiri et al.